

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:JFTEFFT

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: JHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065817

EXDIS MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLL REPEAT BANGKOK 4893 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PHNOM PENH 24  
MAR 75 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4893

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS DOD AND CINCPAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CB, TH

SUBJ: GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S VIEWS ON U.S. SUPPORT OF CAMBODIA

REF : BANGKOK'S 4798

1. SUPREME COMMAND CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL KRIANGSAK CONTACTED ME ON THE EARLY MORNING OF MARCH 24 TO SAY THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN ONE HOUR AND NEEDED AN UPDATE ON OUR THINKING ON CAMBODIA. HE SAID THAILAND AND ITS ASEAN COLLEAGUES WERE CONFUSED AS A RESULT OF RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD LON NOL HAD CHANGED. KRIANGSAK ALSO REFERRED TO MY TALK WITH GENERAL KRIT THE PREVIOUS DAY ON THE U.S. AIRLIFT IN SUPPORT OF CAMBODIA.

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2. I TOLD KRIANGSAK AND ASKED HIM TO TELL THE MINISTER OF

DEFENSE THAT ANY CURTAILMENT OF THE AIRLIFT OR PROHIBITION ON CARRYING AMMUNITION WOULD INCREASE THE CHANCES THAT PHNOM PENH WOULD FALL AND THAT THERE WOULD BE A BLOOD BATH FOR WHICH THE THAI WOULD HAVE TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY. I ALSO MADE THE ADDITIONAL POINTS I MADE TO GENERAL KRIT (REFTEL). KRIANGSAK SAID HE AGREED AND HAD BEEN SHOCKED DURING HIS TRIP OUT OF BANGKOK OVER THE WEEKEND TO READ IN THE PRESS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING SUCH ACTION. HE SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO IMPRESS OUR VIEWS ON THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. ASKED ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD LON NOL, I SAID THERE WAS NO CHANGE AND THAT WE CONTINUED TO FAVOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM BUT THE OTHER SIDE REFUSED TO TALK.

3. KRIANGSAK THEN CITED PRESS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT WE WERE PREPARING TO EVACUATE AMERICANS FROM PHNOM PENH. I SAID THAT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE WE HAVE CONTINGUENCY PLANS BUT WILL STICK IT OUT IN PHNOM PENH AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THE SITUATION CAN BE HELD THROUGH THIS DRY SEASON. KRIANGSAK SAID THE RTG PLANNED TO WITHDRAW A FEW "NON-ESSENTIAL THAI" FROM PHNOM PENH BUT WOULD RETAIN THEIR EMBASSY. HE SAID THEY HAD THEIR OWN PLANS TO EVACUATE IF THIS BECAME NECESSARY BUT HE HOPED WE WOULD GIVE THEM MAXIMUM ADVANCE NOTICE IF WE PLAN TO LEAVE SO THEY COULD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION. I ASSURED HIM WE WOULD DO SO AND ADDED THAT, SHOULD THEIR ARRANGEMENTS BREAK DOWN, WE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP WITH THE EVACUATION OF OUR THAI FRIENDS AND OTHERS WHO STAYED IN PHNOM PENH UNTIL THE END IF AN EVACUATION SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY. MASTERS

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